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EXAMINER	
MUSA, ABDELNABI O	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/501,234	UENO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Abdelnabi O. Musa	2109	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01/15/2002*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☐ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *12 July 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *07/12/2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The instant application having Application No. 10/50,1234 has a total of 24 claims pending in the application; there are 2 independent claims and 22 dependent claims, all of which are ready for examination by the examiner.

Oath/Declaration

2. The applicant's oath/declaration has been reviewed by the examiner and is found to conform to the requirements prescribed in **37 C.F.R. 1.63.**

Priority

3. As required bye **M.P.E.P. 201.14(c)**, acknowledgement is made of applicant's claim for priority based on applications filed on January 15, 2002 (JAPAN 2002-006497)

Information Disclosure Statement

4. As required by **M.P.E.P. 609(C)**, the applicant's submissions of the Information Disclosure Statements dated 07/12/2004, are acknowledged by the examiner and the cited references have been considered in the examination of the claims now pending. As required by **M.P.E.P 609 C (2)**, a copy of the PTOL-1449 initialed and dated by the examiner is attached to the instant office action.

Title

5. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claim(s) 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ando et al. Pub. No. (EP 1039725 A2).

As per claim 1, Ando et al teaches a startup method (connection method to newly connected router Col. 3 line 49) of a first routing device (router A, Col. 3, line 49) connecting plural networks (a plurality of networks are interconnected with the routers Col. 4, Line 10) on which a plurality of second routing devices (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) including a parent router are connected (network devices that interconnect a plurality of networks for communication routing Col. 1, Line 26), wherein

The parent router manages network identification data to identify the plural networks and is connected to one of the plural networks (routing technique is used to identify networks by an ID Col.11, Line 49 also see respective figures),

master router data is included for each corresponding second routing device (router B, Col. 3, Line 55), respectively (the routing information is used to identify networks and their corresponding destination Col. 4, Line 6), each master router data including master router identification data identifying whether the corresponding second routing device is a master router which is located on a path to the parent router or a slave router which is a routing device other than the master router(a router that stores information to assign the network identification Col. 3, Line 58), and network identification data identifying a network to which the corresponding second routing device connects (a network identifier uniquely identifying one of the plurality of networks Col. 4, Line 30), and

the method comprises (connection method Col. 4, Line 22), on startup,

acquiring the master router data from the second routing devices on the networks to which the first routing device connects (device A broadcast an operation start notification message to other routers so it can be detected Col. 4, Line 48), and

determining whether a router function of the first routing device (router A, Col. 3, line 49) is enabled based on the acquired master router (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) data (See FIG. 2).

As per claim 2, Ando et al teaches the method according to claim 1 (connection method to newly connected router Col. 3 line 49), wherein said determining comprises disabling (device stopped indication Col. 11, Line 34) the router function (device B discards the requests and send it to device A Col. 3, Line 24) when all master router (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) identification data in the acquired master router data indicate slave router (See FIG 21).

As per claim 3, Ando et al teaches the method according to claim 1 (connection method to newly connected router Col. 3 line 49), wherein the determining comprises disabling (device stopped indication Col. 11, Line 34) the router function (device B discards the requests and send it to device A Col. 3, Line 24) when acquiring two or more master router data having master router identification data (destination device specify neighboring router identification address Col. 13, Line 3) indicating master router (See FIG. 11).

As per claim 4, Ando et al teaches the method according to claim 1 (connection method to newly connected router Col. 3 line 49), wherein the determining comprises starting up the first routing device (device A broadcast an operation start notification to routers Col. 4, Line 48) with the router function (router functions, Col. 9, Line 50 also See FIG. 4) enabled when acquiring one master router data having the master router identification data (destination device specify neighboring router identification address Col. 13, Line 3) indicating master router (See FIG. 11).

As per claim 5, Ando et al teaches the method according to claim 4 (connection method to newly connected router Col. 3 line 49, where device A broadcast an

operation start notification to routers Col. 4, Line 48), wherein when a communication device connected to the networks has identification data (destination device specify neighboring router identification address Col. 13, Line 3) to identify a network to which the communication device connects (a network identifier uniquely identifying one of the plurality of networks Col. 4, Line 30), the method further comprises acquiring the identification data from a communication device connected to a network (identifying the device based on the network identifier through a communication message Col. 3, Line 36) to which a second routing device (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) that has the master router identification data indicating slave router connects (See FIG 21), and starting up the first routing device (device A broadcast an operation start notification to routers Col. 4, Line 48) with the router function (router functions, Col. 9, Line 50 also See FIG. 4) enabled when there is at least one network to which the network identification data is not provided (plug and play to newly added devices to the network Col. 21, Line 45)

As per claim 6, Ando et al teaches the method according to claim 5 (connection method to newly connected router Col. 3 line 49, where device A broadcast an operation start notification to routers Col. 4, Line 48), further comprising acquiring data relating to the parent router (device A broadcast an operation start notification to routers Col. 4, Line 48) from a second routing device (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) that has the master router identification data which indicates master router, and requesting the parent router to register the first routing device (registration the device application and information with the router Col. 3, Line 46).

As per claim 7, Ando et al teaches a first routing device connecting plural networks on which a plurality of second routing devices (a router that interconnects a plurality of networks and perform a communication message routing and a procedure for connecting devices and routers to a network Col. 1, Line 8), including a parent router, are connected, wherein

the parent router manages network identification data to identify the plural networks and is connected to one of the plural networks (routing technique is used to identify networks by an ID Col.11, Line 49 also see respective figures),

master router data is included for each corresponding second routing device (router B, Col. 3, Line 55), respectively (the routing information is used to identify networks and their corresponding destination Col. 4, Line 6), each master router data including master router identification data identifying whether the corresponding second routing device is a master router which is located on a path to the parent router or a slave router which is a routing device other than the master router (a router that stores information to assign the network identification Col. 3, Line 58), and network identification data identifying a network to which the corresponding second routing device connects (a network identifier uniquely identifying one of the plurality of networks Col. 4, Line 30),,

said first routing device (a plurality of networks are interconnected with the routers Col. 4, Line 10; router- A, router B, router-C, See FIG. 1)comprising:

a startup section operable to acquire, on startup, the master router data (a router that stores information to assign the network identification Col. 3, Line 58) from

the second routing devices (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) on the networks to which the first routing device (router A, Col. 3, line 49) connects (device A broadcast an operation start notification message to other routers so it can be detected Col. 4, Line 48); and

a determining section to determine whether a router function of the first routing device (router A, Col. 3, line 49) is enabled based on the acquired master router (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) data (See FIG. 2).

As per claim 8, Ando et al teaches the first routing device according to claim 7 (a router that interconnects a plurality of networks and perform a communication message routing and a procedure for connecting devices and routers to a network Col. 1, Line 8), further comprising a section to disable (device stopped indication value Col. 11, Line 34) the router function (router functions, Col. 9, Line 50 also See FIG. 4) when all master router (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) identification data in the acquired master router data (a router that stores information to assign the network identification Col. 3, Line 58) indicate the slave router (See FIG 21).

As per claim 9, Ando et al teaches the first routing device according to claim 7 (a router that interconnects a plurality of networks and perform a communication message routing and a procedure for connecting devices and routers to a network Col. 1, Line 8), further comprising a section to disable (device stopped indication Col. 11, Line 34) the router function when acquiring two or more master router data having master router identification data (destination device specify neighboring router identification address Col. 13, Line 3) indicating master router (See FIG. 11).

As per claim 10, Ando et al teaches the first routing device according to claim 7 (a router that interconnects a plurality of networks and perform a communication message routing and a procedure for connecting devices and routers to a network Col. 1, Line 8), wherein the startup section starts up with the router function (device A broadcast an operation start notification to routers Col. 4, Line 48) enabled when acquiring one master router data having the master router identification data (destination device specify neighboring router identification address Col. 13, Line 3) indicating master router (See FIG. 11).

As per claim 11, Ando et al teaches the first routing device according to claim 10 (a router that stores information to assign the network identification Col. 3, Line 58; wherein that router interconnects a plurality of networks Col. 1, Line 8), wherein a communication device connected to the networks has identification data (destination device specify neighboring router identification address Col. 13, Line 3) to identify a network to which the communication device connects (a network identifier uniquely identifying one of the plurality of networks Col. 4, Line 30), the first routing device comprising a section operable to acquire the identification data from a communication device connected to a network to which a second routing device (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) that has mater router identification data indicating slave router connects, and a section operable to start up the first routing device (device A broadcast an operation start notification to routers Col. 4, Line 48) with the router function enabled when there is at least one network (router functions, Col. 9, Line 50 also See FIG. 4) to which the network identification data is not provided (See FIG 21).

As per claim 12, Ando et al teaches the first routing device according to claim 11 (a router that stores information to assign the network identification Col. 3, Line 58; wherein that router interconnects a plurality of networks Col. 1, Line 8), further comprising a section operable to acquire data relating to the parent router (device A broadcast an operation start notification to routers Col. 4, Line 48) from a second routing device (router B, Col. 3, Line 55) having master router identification data which indicates master router (registration the device application and information with the router Col. 3, Line 46), and a section operable to request the parent router to register the first routing device (See FIG. 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim(s) 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando et al. Pub. No. (EP 1039725 A2) as applied to claim(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 respectively above, and further in view of Rangaraian et al. Patent No. (US 7,126.944 B2).

Ando et al teaches all of the claimed limitations and further teaches a computer program to enable a computer to perform all of the features of the methods in the

respective claims (a program is installed on a personal computer contains codes Col. 11, Line 25) but does not teach executing the program on a specific kind of computer to perform all of the features of the method as claimed. However, Rangaraian et al teaches (a computer programs executing on a programmable computers or other machines that each include a processor to perform all of the features Col. 5, Line 20; See FIG1)

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was mad to have modified Ando et al. by the teaching of Rangaraian et al because to run such features one must have a computer program or software instructions to run and execute the steps of getting device information or device application information on other devices.

Claim(s) 14, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando et al. Pub. No. (EP 1039725 A2) as applied to claim(s) 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23 respectively, above, and further in view of Rangaraian et al. Patent No. (US 7,126.944 B2).

Ando et al teaches all of the claimed limitations and further teaches a data recording medium storing the computer program to as claimed in the respective claims (information storage, Col. 11, Line 6 'which indicates the availability of storage medium') but does not teach the program is sorted in a specific storage device and whether execution is preformed directly from the storage to perform all of the features of the method as claimed. However, Rangaraian et al teaches (a computer programs are

stored on a storage medium that is readable to perform the process to perform all of the features Col. 5, Line 33)

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was mad to have modified Ando et al. by the teaching of Rangaraian et al because to run such features one must have a storage medium to store a computer program or software instruction that run and execute the steps of getting device information or device application information on other devices to which the router to be connected.

Conclusion

The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is cited to establish the level of skill in the applicant's art and those arts considered reasonably pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See **MPEP 707.05(c)**.

The following are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of routing devices

- Fukushima et al (US Patent No. 6,049,524)
- Shuen et al. (US Patent No. 5,572,528)
- Basso et al. (US Patent No.6,658,481 B1)
- Dobbins et al (US Patent No.5,751,971)

The examiner requests, in response to this Office action, support should be shown for language added to any original claims on amendment and any new claims.

That is, indicate support for newly added claim language by specifically pointing to page(s) and line(s) in the specification and/or drawing figure(s). This will assist the examiner in prosecuting the application.

When responding to this office action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present, in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. He or she must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections See 37 CFR 1.111(c).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abdelnabi O. Musa whose telephone number is 571-2701901. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Thru Friday: 7:30am to 5:00pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Pwu can be reached on 571-2726798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A.M

JEFFREY PWU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER